

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

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4 January 1958

My dear Lederberg,

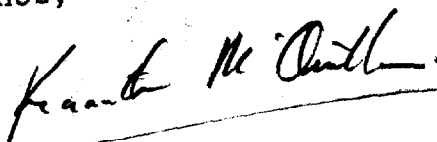
Yesterday I received the copy of your MS for J. Bacteriol. Protoplasts and L-Type Growth of Escherichia coli mailed on 7 December. On the previous day came your letter of 23 December.

I fully sympathise with your position and in many ways wish I had in the first place sent in a personal note to Nature. However, during the past year so many people expressed general agreement with my position and urged a combined effort that I succumbed and now have to reap what I sowed. A dozen people have now approved the note and are expecting to sign it so that I am afraid it might cause hard feelings were I to submit it under or rather over my name alone. Not for a moment did I expect you to rewrite your paper - indeed it is one of the fullest accounts of confirmatory evidence that Gram-negative protoplasts do have wall material in their make-up. (were my remarks on other possible lesions e.g. ethanolamine, feasible ?)

I shall be seeing Salton in a couple of days and will then finally decide what to do and will let you know forthwith.

I am most grateful for the interest you have taken in this matter and feel that fundamentally we hold the same position - that the important thing is to get a greater understanding of the facts. Since abuse of words can sometimes hinder this I thought it worthwhile to interfere - I doubt whether I would again.

All good wishes,



Kenneth McQuillen

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